

Colleagues,

President Trump's recently implemented "zero-tolerance" immigration policy, which includes separating children from their parents as they try to cross the border to seek asylum, stands in stark contrast to the ideals of our nation. It is immoral, un-American, it is hurting families without justification, and it needs to change. This a defining moment for our country.

Yesterday, I helped facilitate an upcoming United States Conference of Mayors' visit to Tornillo, Texas, where a delegation of mayors from the around the country will seek to bring additional attention and focus to this issue. Unfortunately, the day that worked for the USCM leadership and participants is this Thursday. This is unfortunately in conflict with our CodeNEXT work session that same day.

Our Austin City Council, in part because of our leadership on the immigration issue, is being invited by the USCM to join the mayors in El Paso for the bus ride out to Tornillo. Please see the email, copied below, I received this afternoon. Those of us wishing to participate could fly or drive to El Paso on Wednesday to be with the mayors that evening and then return to Austin the evening of the next day.

As we have both critical city business on Thursday and an emerging national crisis in our backyard, I wanted to ensure you were aware of this invitation. Please let me know what you think, and if and who among you would be interested in attending the gathering in Tornillo.

Thank you.

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[As background on this issue, here is an informative link: <https://www.snopes.com/fact-check/was-law-separate-families-passed-1997/> ]

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**From:** Tom Cochran <actionalert@usmayors.org>

**Sent:** Tuesday, June 19, 2018 12:28 PM

**To:** Adler, Steve [Steve.Adler@austintexas.gov](mailto:Steve.Adler@austintexas.gov)

**Subject:** USCM Mission to Tornillo Migrant Shelter Thursday June 21

Dear Mayor Adler,

On behalf of our President, Mayor Steve Benjamin, recognizing the critical leadership you and your City Council have played on immigration issues, our strong relationship with the City of Austin through our SXSW/USCM Leadership meetings for several years now and the fact that we will host our 88th Annual Meeting in Austin in 2020, we invite you and all members of the Austin City Council to join us on Thursday as we bring focus to the migrant shelter in Tornillo, Texas and call on Washington to reverse immediately the policy of separating children from parents.

Our delegation will have dinner in El Paso Wednesday night and board bus to Tornillo migrant shelter at 8 am.

We hope to see all in El Paso. Please respond to me at [tcochran@usmayors.org](mailto:tcochran@usmayors.org) or call or text at 202 744 9110.

Sincerely

Tom Cochran

CEO and Executive Director